



URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR: A STUDY

Dr. D. ASHA LATHA

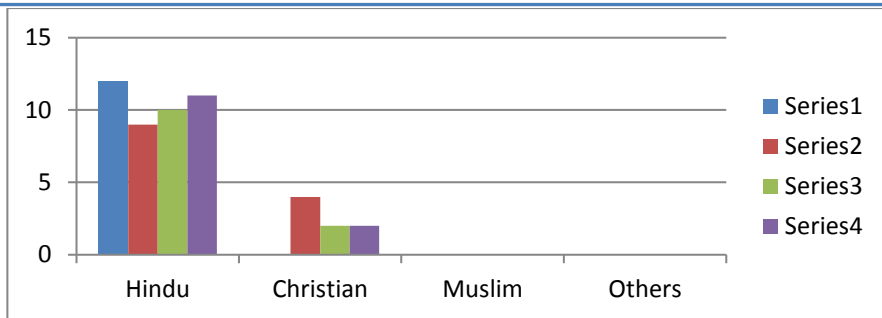
Assistant Professor, Dept of Economics, Andhra University Visakhapatnam

Introduction:

An attempt is made in this chapter to present the socio-economic status of the selected women in Peda Jaripeta Village. Women lag behind men in many social indicators like health, education and economic opportunities. Hence they need special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. To measure the economic and social status of women in Informal sector certain variables were taken into consideration such variables are age, sex, education, social group, structure of the family, marital status, occupation etc., are considered as the important factors, contributing to the growth of informal activities. The social factors have greater impact on human beings, because they involve interaction with immediate human environment like family peers, caste and religion groups. In the same way economic factors also very important role in human activities without economic factors even basic necessities are not available to the people. The growth and development is based on absolutely on the socio-economic factors.

Table1.1 Social Background of the selected women by Religion

		Religion				Total
		Hindu	Christian	Muslim	Others	
Occupation	fish vendor	12	0	0	0	12
	veg vendor	9	4	0	0	13
	servant maid	10	2	0	0	12
	construction labour	11	2	0	0	13
Total		42	8	0	0	50



Source: Computed from the primary data.

Social Background of the selected women by Religion:

Women workers in the urban informal sector classified into two categories, viz., self and wage-employees. The distribution of sample respondent based on their religion- Hindus, Christians, Muslims and others as presented in the data.

Hindu constitute (42%), Christians (8%) and among which (21%) of fish and vegetable vendors and (21%) of construction labour, servant maids.

Table 1.2 Distribution of the selected women by marital status

		Marital status				Total
		Married	Unmarried	Divorced	widowed	
Occupation	fish vendor	12	0	0	0	12
	veg vendor	12	0	0	1	13
	servant maid	12	0	0	0	12
	construction labour	13	0	0	0	13
Total		49	0	0	1	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

Distribution of the selected women by marital status:

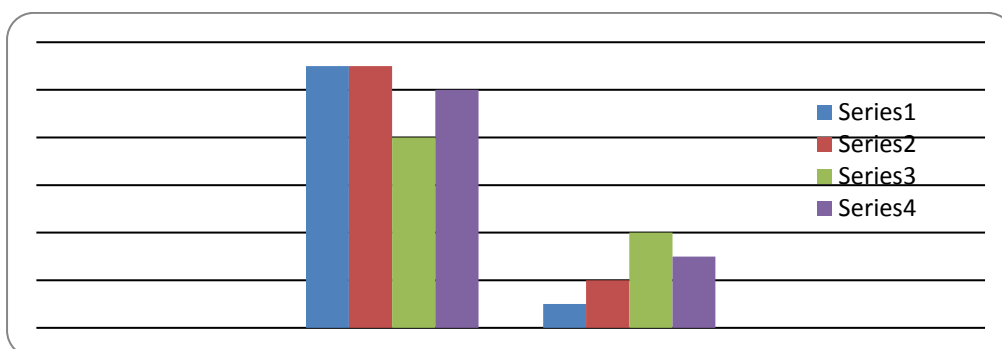
The marital status of the women workers is presented in the above table 1.2. They are categorized into four viz., Married, Unmarried, Divorced and Widowed. It could be observed from the table that nearly 24% of self-employees, 25% of wage earners are married except 1% of self earner is widowed. Thereby no one is divorced and unmarried in the overall samples of women workers. It shows that marriage seems to be the main factor, which compelled the women folk to entire the workforce. The income earned by women could supplement the family income in terms of food, children's education, and social obligations and sometimes even to acquire assets



also. In general, Widows and Divorced work for their family without depending either on their parents or any others to rear up their children and for their livelihood. Mostly Unmarried women respondents enter to work force to supplement parent's income and for their own basic needs.

Table 1.3 Distribution of selected women by Caste

		Caste				Total
		OC	BC	SC	ST	
occupation	fish vendor	0	11	1	0	12
	veg vendor	0	11	2	0	13
	servant maid	0	8	4	0	12
	construction labour	0	10	3	0	13
Total		0	40	10	0	50



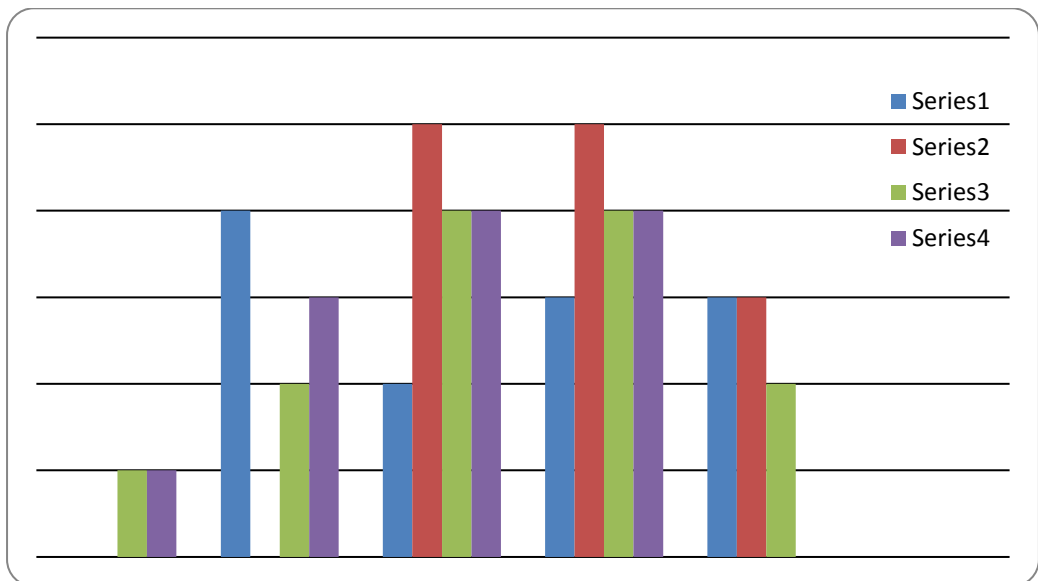
Source: Computed from the primary data.

Distribution of Selected women by caste:

The sample women are classified into four social groups, namely, Open Category (OC), Backward Category (BC), Schedules Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) considering their caste as the parameter. The distribution of the women workers based on the caste classification is presented in the above table 1.3. It is observed that, majority of the women workers are from two categories only, namely, BC and SC., where, 40 percent of women are belong to backward category (BC) and 10 percent of women are from Scheduled caste (SC). In which, 22% of self earners, 18% of wage earners in BC and 3% of self earners, 7% of wage earners in SC. Among all the four social groups, dashari, kummari, madhiga castes which are traditionally involved in the vegetable, fish vendors and casual labour, servant maids.

**Table 1.4 Age-Wise distribution of the selected women**

		Age-groups (years)						Total
		25-29	30-34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50+	
occupation	fish vendor	0	4	2	3	3	0	12
	veg vendor	0	0	5	5	3	0	13
	servant maid	1	2	4	4	2	0	13
	construction labour	1	3	4	4	0	0	12
Total		2	9	15	16	8	0	50



Source: Computed from the primary data.

Age-wise distribution of the selected women:

Age-wise distribution of the selected women is another important aspect, because age determines the motive for work participation. Hence, age-wise distribution of the women working in Informal sector is presented in the above table 1.4. Out of 50 respondents, 25 samples are self employees and 25 samples are wage employees. It is observed that, majority of the women are in the two age groups, such as 35-39 and 40-44 with 15% plus 16% of total. Also the members in the age groups, 30-34, and 45-49 are approximately same and they are very less in the age group, 25-29. There are no women in the age group 50 plus in the both self and wage employment.



Table 1.5 Working hours in respective economic activity of the selected women workers

		Working hours day								Total
		<6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	13+	
occupation	fish vendor	0	1	0	1	6	3	1	0	12
	veg vendor	0	2	1	4	5	1	0	0	13
	servant maid	2	2	6	2	0	0	0	0	12
	construction labour	0	0	1	0	1	11	0	0	13
Total		2	5	8	7	12	15	1	0	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

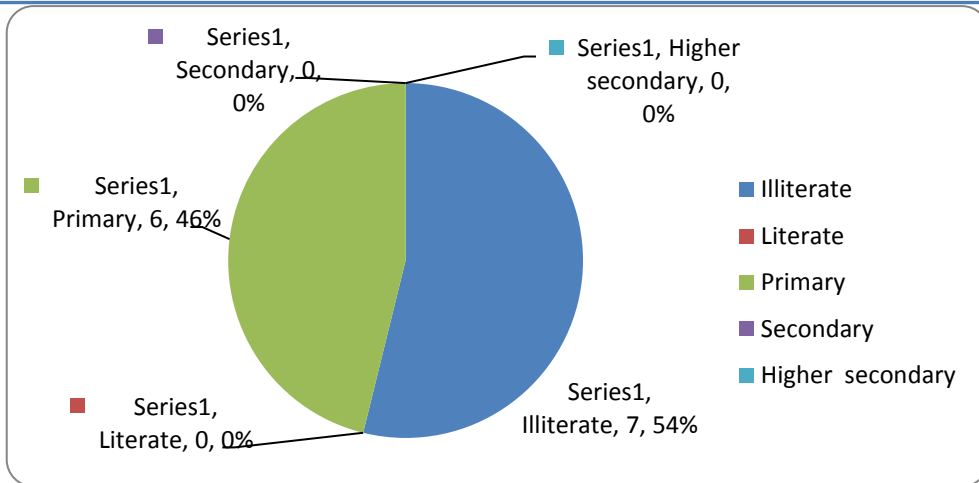
Working hours in respective economic activity of the selected women workers:

Generally these activities require some specific timing presented in the above table 1.5. Total spent on the activity is divided into eight categories namely below6, 6-7, 7-8, 8-9, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12 and 13+. It could be observed from the above table, working hours of both self earners and wage earners are similar. Even the working of these people is the same, but the income levels are fluctuating among them.

Table 1.6 Distribution of the selected women by Education

		Educational Status					Total
		Illiterate	Literate	Primary	Secondary	Higher secondary	
occupation	fish vendor	7	0	6	0	0	13
	veg vendor	10	0	3	0	0	13
	servant maid	9	0	3	0	0	12
	construction labour	9	0	3	0	0	12
Total		37	0	13	0	0	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.



Distribution of the selected women by Education:

Literacy is an important factor for creating a base for development. One hand, it improves people's skills and on the other enables them to participate in modern economic activities successfully. Economists have long since recognized the importance of education in the development process. Adam Smith considered that investment in education for acquiring ability as fixes capital. Alfred Marshall asserted that the most valuable of all capital is investment in human beings. T.W Schultz has shown the relation of economic development of industrialized economics and education. Habinson and Myers consider that without investment in education rapid economic development is not possible.

The women in informal sector of Peda Jalaripeta are not an exception to this trend. Above table 1.6 explain the educational status of the respondents. It is found that out of 50 respondents, 37 percent of women workers are illiterates, 13 percent are from primary in both self and wage employees. Regarding literates, Secondary and higher secondary categories, the percentage of women is nil or Zero. So that we conclude that majority of women are illiterates in these occupations.

**Table 1.7 Distribution of selected women by skills**

		Skill level			Total
		Skilled	semi-skilled	unskilled	
occupation	fish vendor	0	1	11	12
	veg vendor	0	8	5	13
	servant maid	0	1	11	12
	construction labour	0	3	10	13
Total		0	13	37	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.



Distribution of selected women by skills:

Formal education, skills, and previous work experience is considered important assets for the success of any worker. Training helps her in knowing the ins and outs of the work and adds a practical dimension to knowledge. Skilled persons try to improve their performance to increase income. Skill and technical knowledge are important factors that influence the quality of any worker. Majority of the women do not have any skills and technical knowledge. Still they work for economic reasons. They are unable to develop themselves without proper skills, because firstly they are illiterates, they are poor. The main aim is to supplement family earnings. This can be observed from the above table 1.7, out of 50 respondents 74 percent of women are unskilled persons, and remaining 13 percent of women are semi-skilled persons. So, majority of the women are unskilled persons.



Table 1.8 Length of service of the sample women respondents

		Service length						Total
		< 1	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 5	6 - 7	8+	
occupation	fish vendor	1	0	5	4	2	0	12
	veg vendor	0	1	3	6	3	0	13
	servant maid	0	1	6	2	2	1	12
	construction labour	0	0	4	4	5	0	13
Total		1	2	18	16	12	1	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

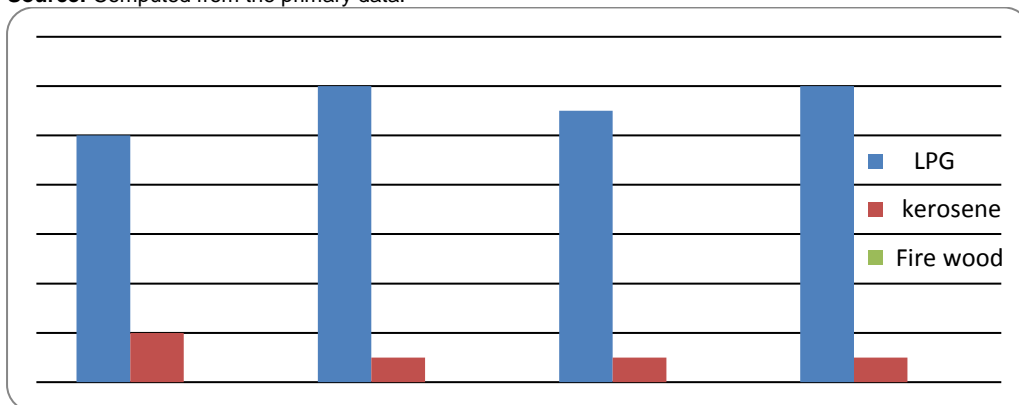
Length of service of the sample women respondents:

The distribution of the women respondents is based on the year of experience is presented in the above table 1.8. It can observe that, both the self and wage earners, their length of service is looking similar. Majority of the worker's length of service in between 3 to 7 years (approximately 92 percentage of women workers) because of lack of education and proper skills they have to continue in same work to earn for their family.

Table 1.9 Type of cooking fuel

		Fuel for cooking			Total
		LPG	Kerosene	Fire wood	
occupation	fish vendor	10	2	0	12
	veg vendor	12	1	0	13
	servant maid	11	1	0	12
	construction labour	12	1	0	13
Total		45	5	0	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.





Type of cooking fuel:

The types of cooking food by the sample women workers are given in the above table 1.9. The major sources are LPG, Kerosene, and Fire wood. Majority of the households are using LPG rather than the other. Out of total, 45 percent are using LPG, remaining 5 percent are using Kerosene and no one is using the fire wood from the collected samples why because almost all are getting subsidies by the government through Ration cards, we all know now-a-days.

Table 1.10
Status of Sanitary Facility by Women Sample Households

		Sanitary Facility		Total
		public toilets	own toilets	
occupation	fish vendor	4	8	12
	veg vendor	2	11	13
	servant maid	2	10	12
	construction labour	0	13	13
Total		8	42	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

Status of Sanitary Facility by Women Sample Households:

The above table 1.10 shows that sanitary facility of the collected sample households. Out of total, 84 percent are having their own sanitary facilities, remaining 16 percent are using public sanitary facilities. If remaining 16 percent will have own sanitary facility, then it will show that raising their level of living standard in this aspect.

Table 1.11
Distribution of Households by the Source of Protected Water Supply

		Drinking water source			Total
		protected	Well	Hand pump	
occupation	fish vendor	10	0	2	12
	veg vendor	4	1	8	13
	servant maid	10	0	2	12
	construction labour	9	0	4	13
Total		33	1	16	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

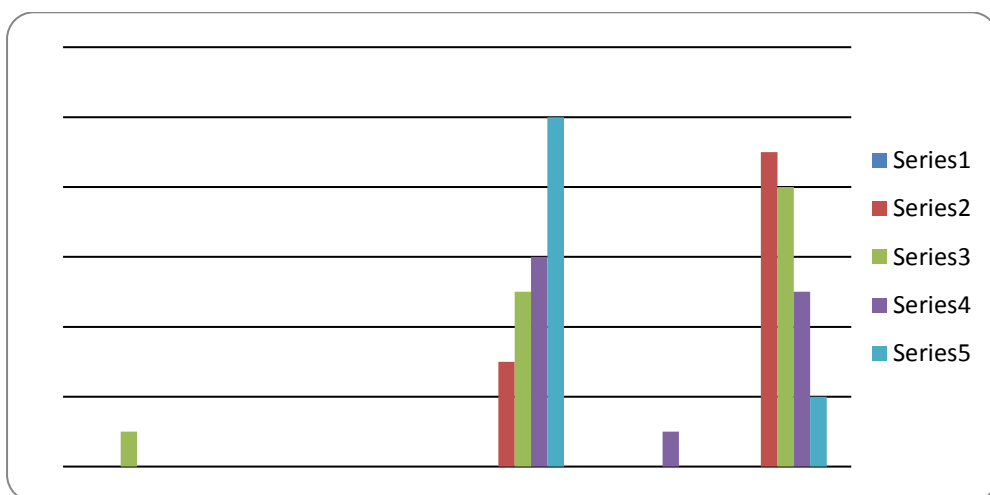


Distribution of Households by the Source of Protected Water Supply:

The distribution of the households based on the sources of water supply is presented in the above table 1.1. According to the table, 66 percent have protected water supply, 32 percent are using Hand pump and 2 percent are using well for drinking water. This shows that, only 66 percent have protected drinking water out of total, remaining is suffering from it. So, we suggest that, remaining 34 percent of households should have proper, protected drinking water otherwise they will catch by chronic health problems.

**Table 1.12
Housing Status of the Sample Women Households**

		Own			Rent			Total
		Pucca	kutchra	Semi pucca	Pucca	kutchra	Semi pucca	
occupation	fish vendor	0	0	0	3	0	9	12
	veg vendor	1	0	0	5	0	8	14
	servant maid	0	0	0	6	1	5	12
	construction labour	0	0	0	10	0	2	13
Total		1	0	0	24	1	24	50



Source: Computed from the primary data.



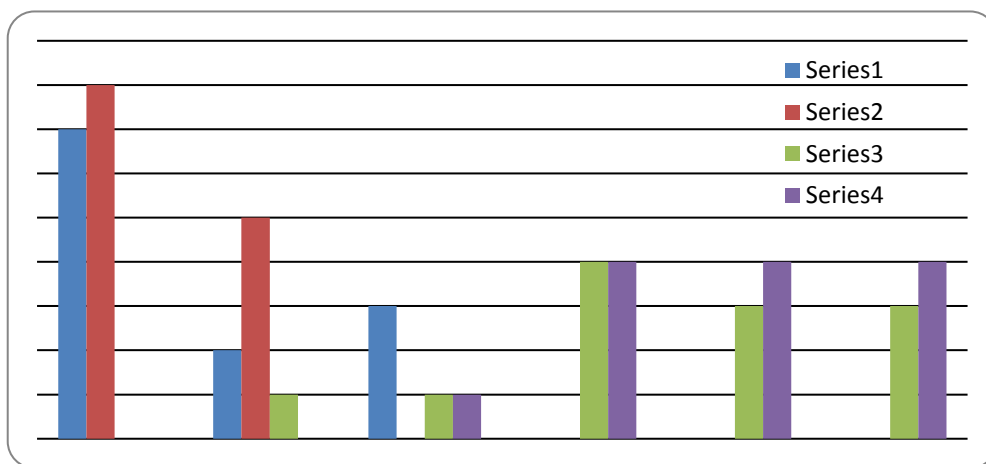
Housing Status of the Sample Women Households:

The distribution of the women respondents based on their housing status is presented in the above table 1.12. It could be seen from the table that out of the total women households, 98 percent lives in rented houses except 2 percent. 96% are living in pucca and semi-pucca houses and only 2 percent are living in kutchra houses. Among both self and wage employers are living mostly in pucca and semi-pucca houses. In this aspect, the housing conditions are better than the prior.

Table 1.13
Distribution of the Sample Women's Average Household –monthly Income

		Family income						Total
		1000 - 4000	4000 - 7000	7000 - 10000	10000 - 13000	13000 - 17000	17000+	
occupation	fish vendor	7	2	3	0	0	0	12
	veg vendor	8	5	0	0	0	0	13
	servant maid	0	1	1	4	3	3	12
	construction labour	0	0	1	4	4	4	13
Total		15	8	5	8	7	7	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.



Distribution of the Sample Women's Average Household –monthly Income:

The information about the average monthly income of the sample households is presented in the above table 1.13. The above table is arranged into six ranges based on the household income viz., 1000-4000, 4000-7000, 7000-10000, 10000-

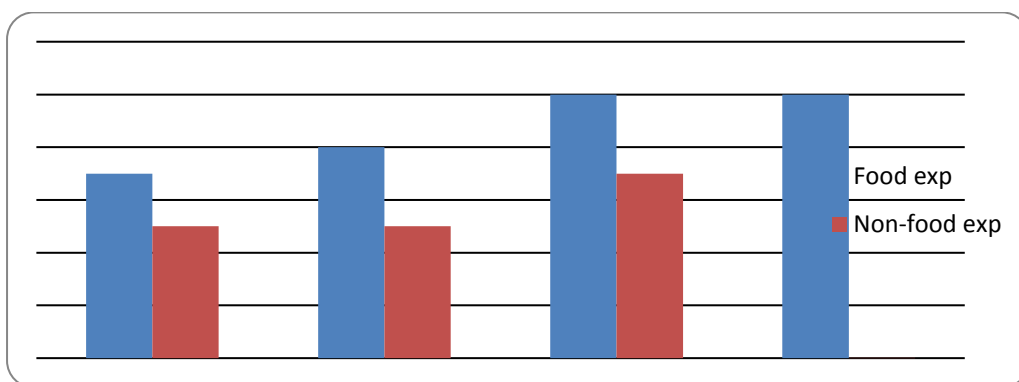


13000, 13000-17000, 17000 +. Among 56 percent of fish and wage vendors are able to earn their monthly family income below 10000, whereas servant maids and construction labours are able to earn 10000 to 17000 and above 17000. It is observed from the table that wage earners monthly income is more than the self-employees because of increased wage rates, they are able to earn better than the self employees.

Table 1.14 Household Consumption (in rupees) monthly

		Food exp	Non-food exp	Total
occupation	fish vendor	7000	5000	12000
	veg vendor	8000	5000	13000
	servant maid	10000	7000	17000
	construction labour	10000	.8000	18000
Total		35000	25000	60000

Source: Computed from the primary data.



Status of Household Consumption:

Above table 1.14 represents the consumption levels of the selected sample households on both food and non-food items. All the household's viz., fish vendors, vegetable vendors, servant maids and construction labours are spending on both the items similar amount with a little difference. But, we can deeply observe that among the four categories expenditure is highest in the casual labour category. Expenditure on non-food consumption considered viz., clothing, housing, fuel, medical expenses, electricity, entertainment, education inspire of these expenses they are addictive to certain habits in the society like chewing tobacco and consuming liquor.



Table 1.15 Saving pattern

		Savings monthly					Total
		0	500 - 1000	2000 - 2500	2500 - 3000	3000+	
occupation	fish vendor	9	2	1	0	0	12
	veg vendor	13	0	0	0	0	13
	servant maid	3	2	2	3	2	12
	construction labour	2	1	3	3	4	13
Total		27	5	6	6	6	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

Saving pattern:

Savings is one of the important indicators to depict the standard of living. Above table 1.15 shows the picture of saving pattern of the selected sample households. It is observe from the table that out of total 50 households, 54 percent are not able to save due to low income and are not able to meet both the ends, whereas the rest of 46 percent only are able to save their income in some commercial banks and their selves. Here, wage earners are able to save when compare to self earners based on their income levels.

Table 1.16 Electrification

		Electrified house		Total
		Yes	No	
Occupation	fish vendor	12	0	12
	veg vendor	13	0	13
	servant maid	12	0	12
	construction labour	13	0	13
Total		50	0	50

Source: Computed from the primary data

Facility of Electrification:

The living standard of women respondents are shown to be almost better. It is observed from the above table 1.16 that almost all the households from both the



occupations like vegetable, fish vendors and casual labours, servant maids are assessed with electrification status. It is one of the good indicators.

Table 1.17 Role of Women in Decision Making

		Views on women role				Total
		Independent	dependent	cannot say	indifferent	
occupation	fish vendor	6	5	1	0	12
	veg vendor	9	3	0	0	13
	servant maid	5	5	2	0	12
	construction labour	8	6	0	0	14
Total		28	19	3	0	50

Source: Computed from the primary data.

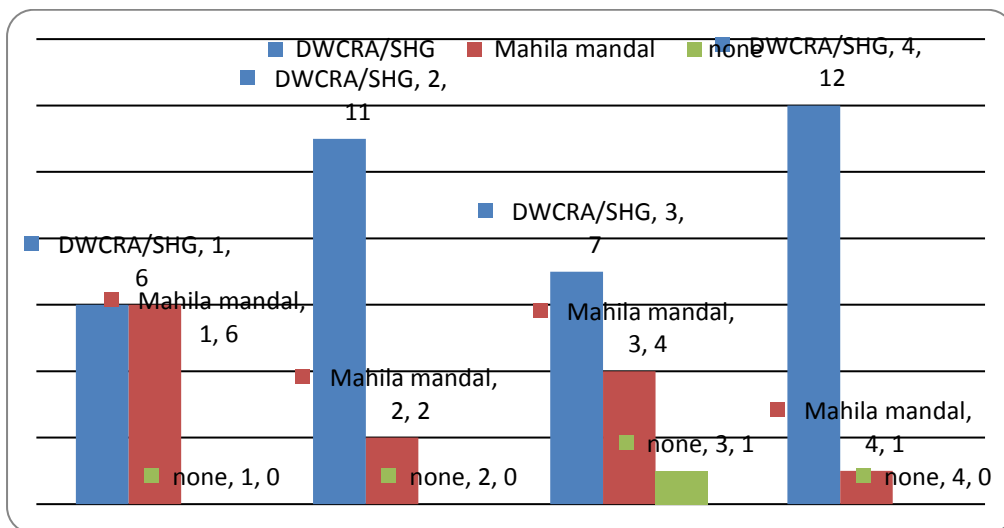
Role of Women in Decision Making:

The quality of life can be considered from the view point of not only physical indicators but also from the other indicators such as their role in decision making. This information is presented in the above table 1.17. It shows that, 56 percent of respondents are able to take their own decision that means they are independent regarding any matter and 38 percent of women are still dependent on husband, father or somebody else to take decisions regarding their family matters and 6 percent of women cannot say their opinions in this matter because of lack of awareness, education and having superstitious feelings also.

Table 1.18 Participating of Women in Welfare Organization

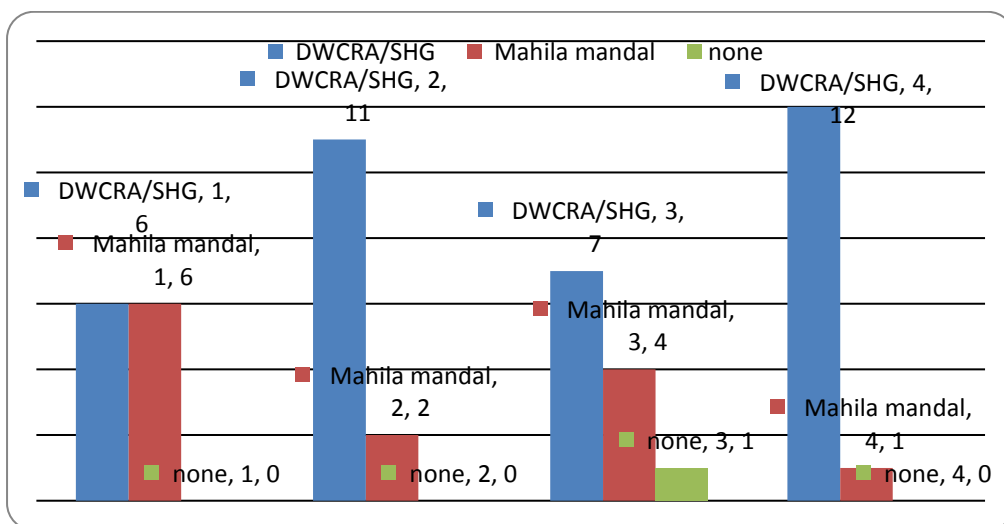
		Type of welfare organization			Total
		DWCRA/ SHG	Mahila mandal	None	
occupation	fish vendor	6	6	0	12
	veg vendor	11	2	0	13
	servant maid	7	4	1	12
	construction labour	12	1	0	13
Total		36	13	1	50

Source: Computing from the primary data.



Participating of Women in Welfare Organization:

Above table 1.18 shows the participating of women welfare organizations. It is observed that 72 percent of the respondent women are participating in DWCRAs groups and 26 percent of women respondents have joined in Mahila Mandal. It shows the awareness of women regarding empowerment. Before joining into these organizations women were lack of awareness and due lack of time and education women could not participate in these organizations but nowadays empowerment has become on the burning topic in social science research.





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